

the laws of the United States than the giving of money by thousands of Americans to help the Irish revolutionary cause against England at any time in the past.

I gather that in the Cominsky case the defense did not bring our Mr. Wehde's prison connection on direct examination, thus leaving opportunity for the prosecution to ask contemptuously toned questions about that phase.

If you brought out all the prison stuff on direct examination what would be left for the prosecution to say about it?

CAN A FINGER-PRINT FORGERY BE DETECTED? -- You asked me that question today. Mr. Wehde wrote, in answer to an inquiry from Detroit, on Feb. 2, 1926: "I have claimed, and I still claim, that it is practically impossible to prove a forgery. Naturally this depends upon the forger's skill. My claim related to my own work. However, it is occasionally possible to discover many peculiarities in print which justify viewing the impression with distrust. It is possible to discover in a given finger-print not only the design of the pattern, but also the mental condition of the man who left them, his calling in life, and much other detail. And a jury can be made to read these things, too. The material upon which the prints were found, and the prevailing atmospheric conditions, also play an important part."

DEMONSTRATION OF FINGER-PRINT FORGERY IN THE COURT ROOM -- In another letter Mr. Wehde wrote: "I can put the prosecutor's finger-prints on an object next to the defendant's, and I can do this in a manner not detectable by any expert. I invite the opportunity to do it."

From my conversation with Mr. Wehde, I gather that he could plant a forged finger-print of the prosecutor or the judge somewhere in the courtroom or on some object to be introduced as evidence, an object which obviously had never actually been touched by the prosecutor or the judge.

While Mr. Wehde was in Leavenworth, an iron chest was rifled by some unknown person. Mr. Wehde was assigned to examine it for finger-prints. He "discovered" upon it the imprints of one of the prison officials, imprints which Mr. Wehde himself had planted upon the chest.

PROSECUTION IN COMINSKY CASE BLOCKED DEMONSTRATION OF FINGER-PRINT FORGERY -- Just after the acquittal of Cominsky, Mr. Wehde wrote me saying: "The judge, seeing me in the corridor during a recess, said: 'They did not want you to demonstrate.'"

SUGGESTIONS -- If you have not already done so, I suggest that you have a search made through the columns of newspapers which were the most active in the Hall-Mills case immediately after the murder. Look through both the Jersey papers and the New York City papers. Look for references to finger-prints. Look for comment on the case at that time by Edward Schwartz, of Newark, who, while he came into that case as a civil engineer, is a